Friday Bulletin, November 1, 2013

Department of Religion, University of Florida

Upcoming Lectures

Daniel Levine (University of Michigan) will give a lecture entitled “The Argentine Pope and the Future of Religion in Latin America” on November 5, 2013, at 6:00pm, in Smathers Library (East). He will also offer a workshop-brown bag lunch for faculty and graduate students at noon in 117 Anderson. See prior bulletin for details.

Presentations

On Thursday, October 17, Professor Vasudha Narayanan moderated a discussion panel on being a woman of faith. This event, part of the Intercultural Engagement’s Interfaith Dialogue Series and co-sponsored by the Women’s Student Association, featured a panel of female campus religious leaders and representatives who spoke about gender issues through the lens of their respective faiths.

On October 29 and 30, 2013, Professor Mario Poceski gave two public lectures in Prague (Czech Republic), at the invitations of two academic institutions, the Oriental Institute and the Chinese Studies Department at Charles University. The lecture titles were “Religion in Modern China: Disruptions and Continuities” and “Growth of Chan (Zen) as a Distinctive Tradition of Chinese Buddhism.”

Professor Terje Ostebo gave a talk on "Current Trends for Islam in Ethiopia and in the Horn of Africa" for the Swedish ambassador and embassy staff in Addis Ababa, on October 24, 2013.

Caleb Simmons (Ph.D. student, Asian Religions) presented a paper titled "The Hunt for Noses: Contextualizing the Wodeyars’ Predilection for Nose-Cutting" at the Second Annual Archive India Institute Conference at Delhi University on November 1, 2013. This year's theme was History and Violence.

Publications

Professor Terje Ostebo’s article "Islam and State Relations in Ethiopia: From Containment to the Production of a ‘Governmental Islam’” has been published in the Journal of the American Academy of Religion 81.3 (2013):
http://jaar.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/10/27/jaarel.lft060.full?keytype=ref&ijkey=g64Z6zN39j4dsXz

Professor Bron Taylor’s “The Battle to Define Avatar Spirituality” – which responds to questions about his recently published book, Avatar and Nature Spirituality – was published in Religion Dispatches on 29 October 2013:
http://www.religiondispatches.org/books/rd10q/7302/the_battle_to_define_avatar_spirituality/
News

Professor Terje Ostebo has just accepted an invitation to be the guest editor for a special issue of the journal *Islamic Africa*, which will be devoted to Salafism in Africa, and is scheduled to be published in 2014.

A Department of Religion alumna, Saskia Pallias ’97, was recently featured on the PBS Newshour for her social justice work. She is currently the Director of Family & Community Engagement for the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. She leads the Partnership’s family and community engagement strategy, which is attempting to empower thousands of parents by helping them understand their roles, rights and responsibilities. Saskia holds a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and a BA in Religion and Women’s Studies from UF.

Deadlines

The applications for Spring 2014 Travel Support for Graduate Students, for the period January 1 – May 1, 2014, are due in the Dean’s office by 4:00pm on Monday, November 25, 2013. The application is available on the web at [http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/index.html](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/index.html). Since the graduate studies committee will have to evaluate and rank the applications before forwarding them to CLAS, please submit a copy of your application by email to Annie by 4:00pm on Tuesday, November 19, 2013.